(b) whether the dealers commission of private petroleum companies is higher than the dealers of oil PSU; and

(c) if so, by when a final decision on the issue of dealers commission shall be taken by Government to enable the PSU oil companies to compete with the private oil marketing companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The dealers' commission offered by the private petroleum companies varies depending upon investment made by the dealers.

(c) Government have accepted the recommendations of the Committee of Directors' (Marketing) of Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to increase dealers commission from Rs.707/KL to Rs.848/KL for petrol and from Rs.425/KL to Rs.509/KL for diesel and OMCs have been advised accordingly.

Demand for petroleum products

914. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demand rate of petroleum products is increasing day by day in our country as compared to other countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to contain demand of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) According to International Energy Agency (IEA), the estimated global oil demand will rise by about 1.6% per year during the period 2000-2030. Oil demand in China is expected to grow at 3% per annum and that of East Asia including Indonesia at 2.7% per annum. South Asian oil demand is projected to grow at a slightly higher rate of 4% compared to Indian projected growth of 3.3%.

The percentage increase in the consumption of petroleum products in the country during the last three years is as under:—

Year	% increase in consumption
2002-03	3.7
2003-04	3.5
2004-05(P)	3.7

(c) In order to promote conservation of petroleum products and improve efficiency in use of petroleum products in India, the Government, through the Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) tenders advice to the energy consuming sector, *viz* the industrial sector, the transport sector, the agriculture sector and the domestic sector about good energy practices. While general awareness-building for conservation measures is carried out through various media, including newspapers, magazines, outdoor hoardings and the electronic media, specific projects, including energy audit and driver training activities are undertaken in direct consultation with and involvement of specific energy consuming entities. The Energy Service Company (ESCO) concept is also being promoted.

In addition, for diversifying the energy basket, which *inter alia* contains the demand for petroleum products, the Government is implementing a five per cent ethanol blended petrol programme in notified sugar producing and adjoining areas under the provisions of GSR 705 (E) dated 27.10.2004. Field trails are also being undertaken using bio-diesel blended diesel in the transportation sector.

Losses suffered by Oil PSUs

915. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the oil PSUs such as IOC, HPCL and PBCL have registered substantial losses in the current year; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the losses and the steps proposed to reverse the trend?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Public Sector Oil Marketing companies (OMCs) such as IOC, HPCL & BPCL have registered losses during the first quarter of the current year.